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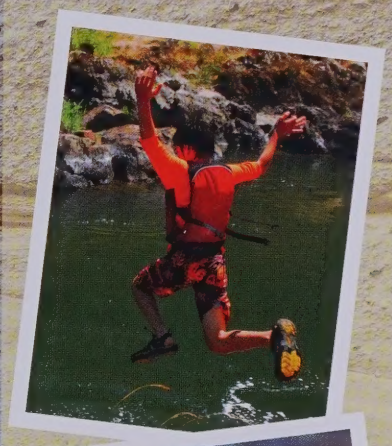
My Public Lands

Every Kid Outdoors!

JUNIOR RANGER



Millions of acres of land to explore!

7 principles to guide your visit

JUNIOR RANGER

Bureau of Land Management

EVERY ★★ OUTDOORS

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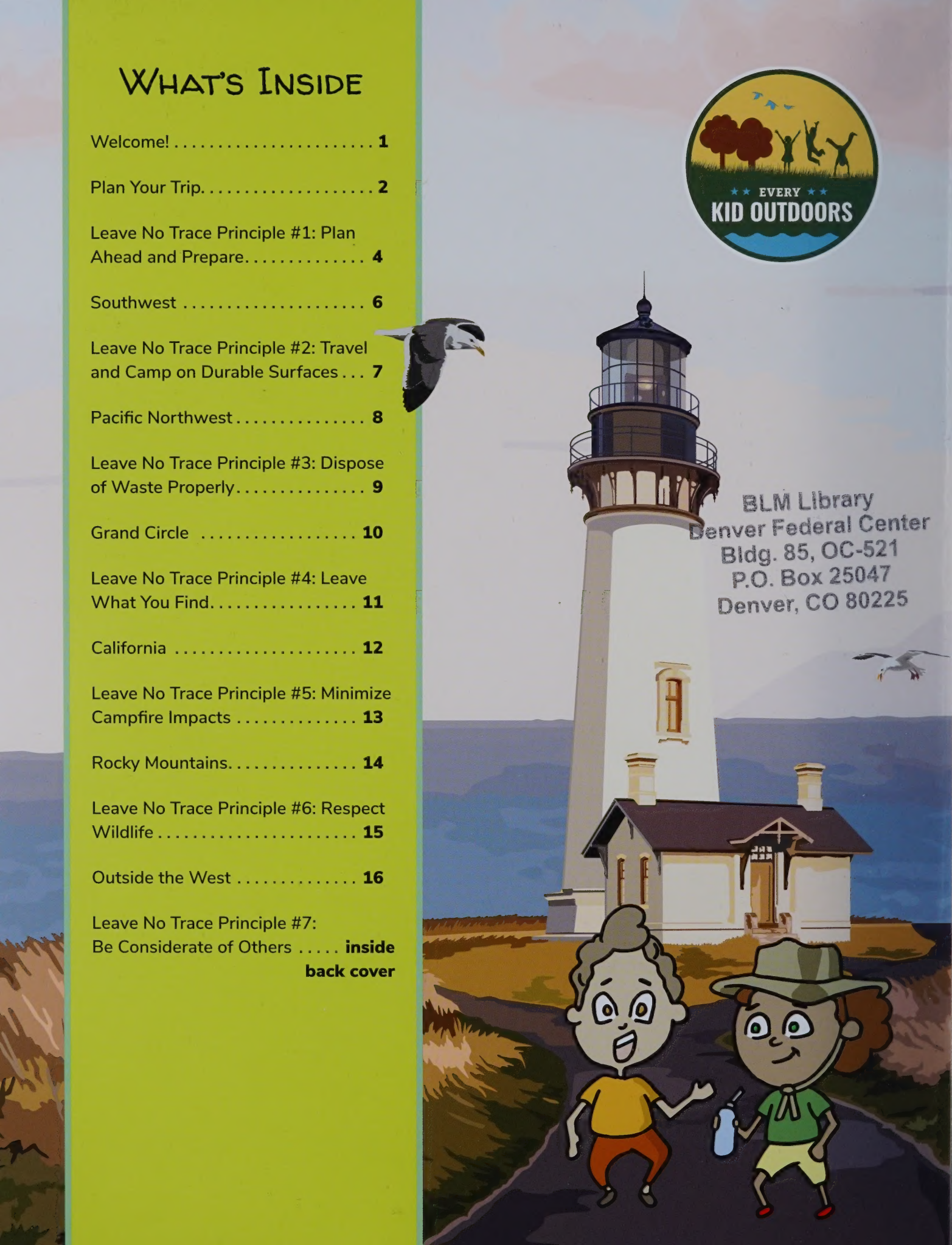

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Welcome!

Did you know public lands belong to everyone, including you? With the Every Kid Outdoors pass, 4th graders and their families get free access to hundreds of parks, lands, and water for an entire year.

Inside this Junior Ranger book, you will explore amazing places across the country, discover fun things to do, and learn how to visit responsibly.

Leave No Trace

One of the best ways to care for public lands is by following the seven Leave No Trace principles. These simple guidelines help us protect nature—whether we're hiking in the mountains or playing in our own backyard.

1. Plan ahead and prepare

2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces

3. Dispose of waste properly

4. Leave what you find

5. Minimize campfire impacts

6. Respect wildlife

7. Be considerate of others

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

Plan Your Trip

Learn about your heritage and connect with nature while you explore millions of acres of public lands and waters. Listen to birds, look for fossils, paddle a river, hike a new trail, or look up into a dark night sky and reach for the stars!

Federal agencies like the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manage public lands on behalf of the American people. How do you know when you're on public lands? Look for these symbols.

The BLM manages about 245 million acres of public lands and nearly all is open for recreation. This means there are a lot of places for you to discover! What kind of trip would you like to go on?

Circle activities you would like to do:

Find your location on the map and mark where you are with an X. If you could travel anywhere in the country, where would you choose to go? **Mark out a route with a dotted line.**

More information about visiting public lands can be found at www.everykidoutdoors.gov or www.blm.gov/visit.

Leave No Trace Principle #1: Plan Ahead and Prepare

No matter where you live in the United States, there's public land within 2 hours of your home. Using a trip planner like the one below can help you make the most of your explorations. A well-planned trip helps guarantee a safe, enjoyable time outdoors—a win for both the visitor and the environment!

Trip Planner

Location: _____

Type of Trip: _____

☐ Day Trip ☐ Overnight stay

Lodging:

☐ Camping ☐ Hotel Notes: _____

Transportation:

☐ Airplane ☐ Car ☐ Boat ☐ Other Notes: _____

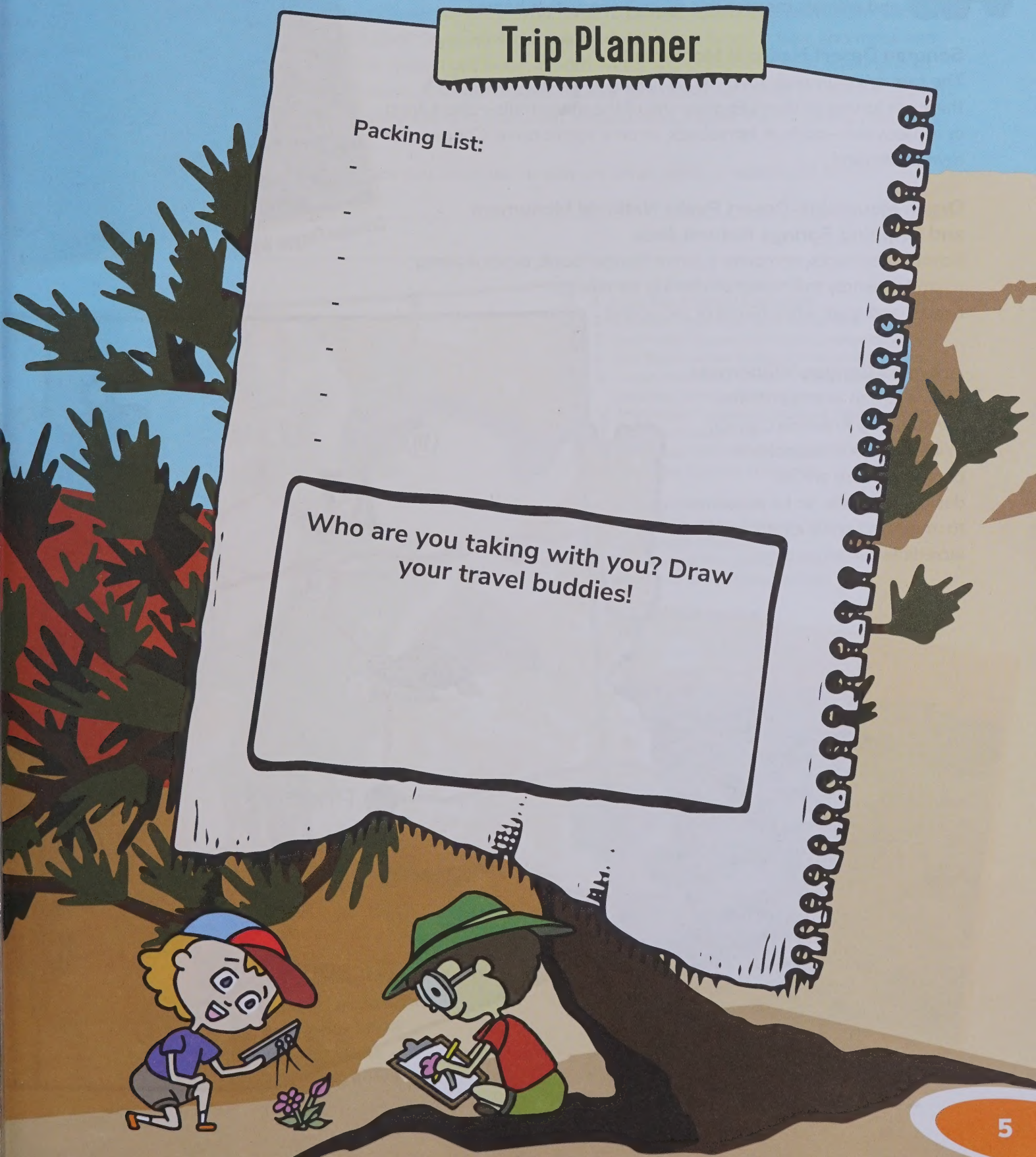
Distance from Home: _____

Weather: _____

Activities: _____

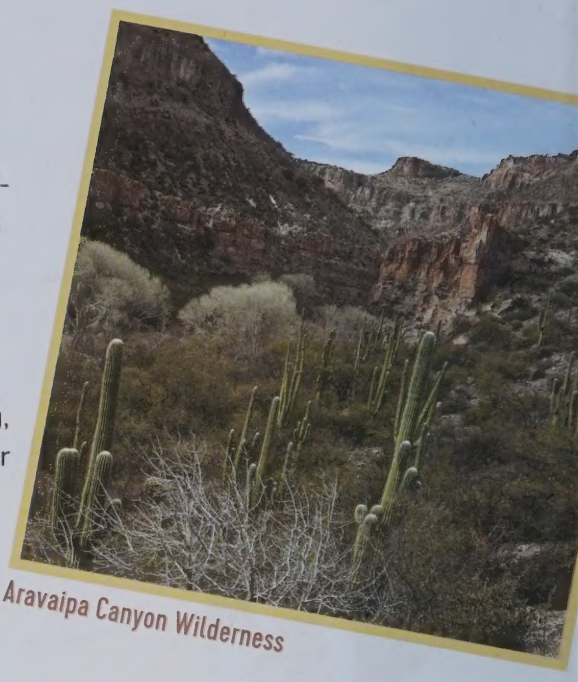
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Once you've decided where to go and what you'd like to do, packing the right supplies is essential to having a fun and successful trip. List at least four items you think you should pack before you get on the road.



Southwest

The Southwest is known for stunning desert landscapes. There's no shortage of fun in the Southwest—camp, travel off-road, and hike while keeping an eye out for the unique plants and animals that call this diverse ecosystem home.



Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness

Sonoran Desert National Monument

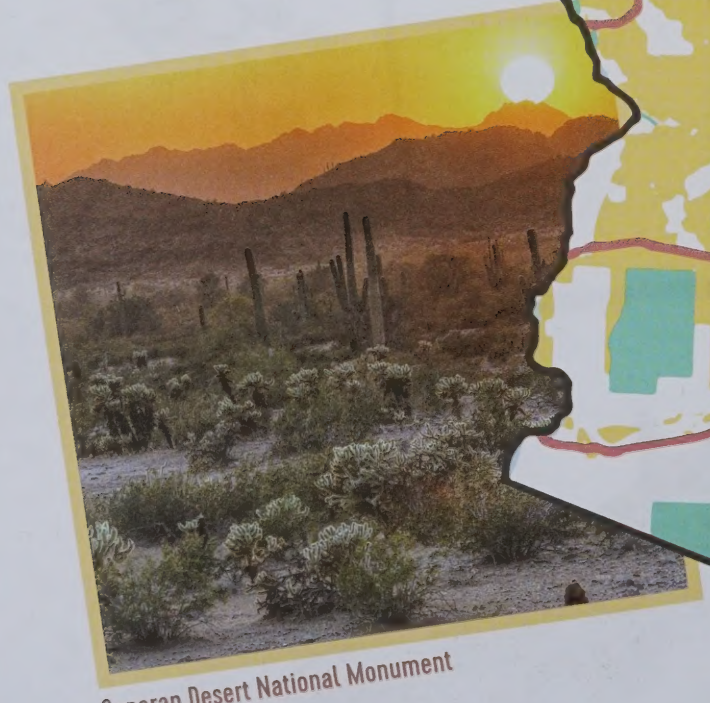
The saguaro (suh-waa-row) cactus is king in these parts. In fact, there are forests of them! Explore one of the many trails—short, long, or in-between—on foot, horseback, or on a scenic drive. Choose your own adventure!

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and Dripping Springs Natural Area

Scramble on rocks, complete a Junior Ranger book, or stroll along a family-friendly trail. Keep an eye out for hawks, eagles, and quail while hiking or picnicking.

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness

Grab a permit and set off into the stunning Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness, a backpacker's paradise. There are no designated trails, so be prepared to route-find while exploring this incredible canyon system.

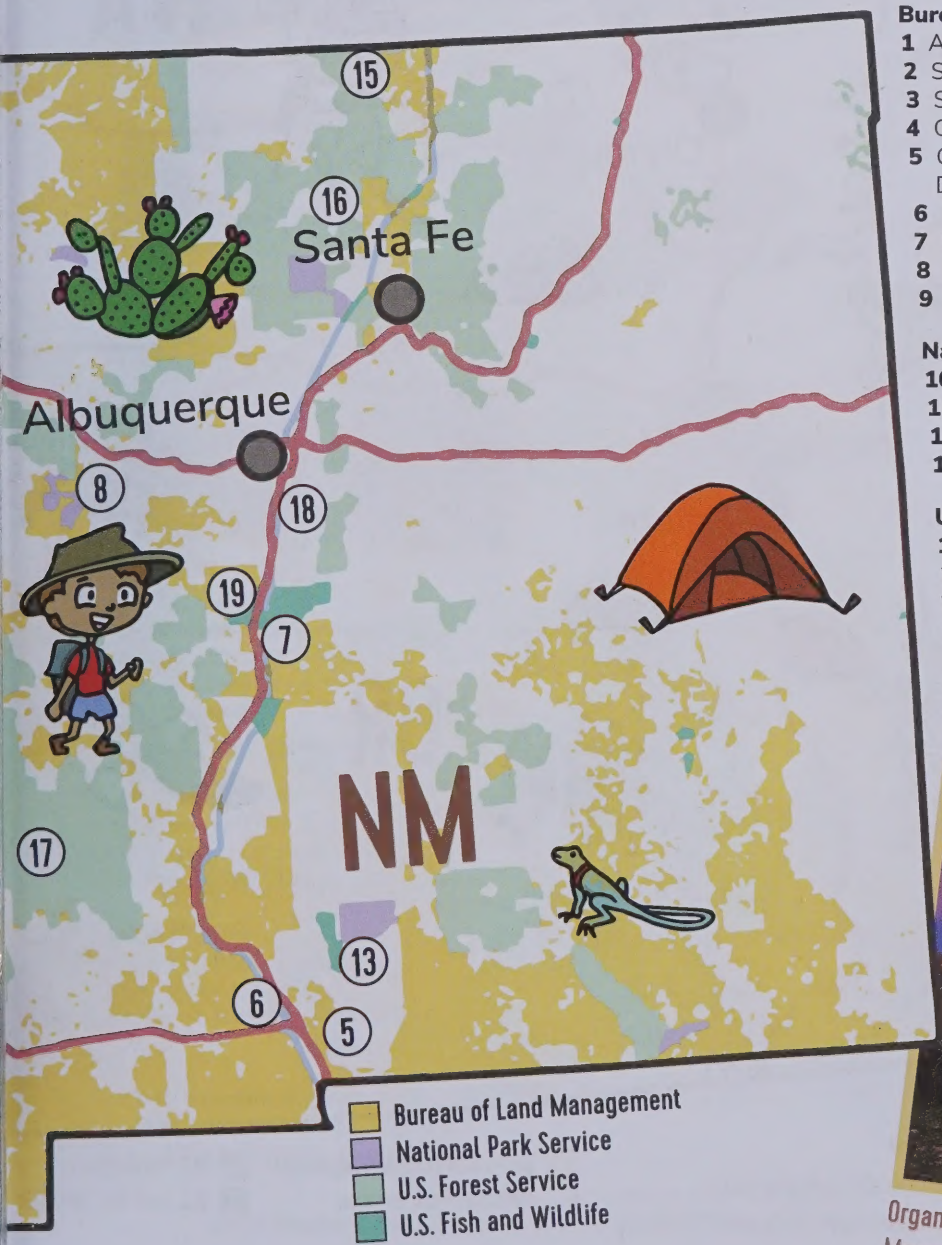


Sonoran Desert National Monument

Leave No Trace Principle #2: Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Life can be tough in this arid (dry) climate, so watch your step to protect plants and animals. In some places, even the soil is considered alive! Cryptobiotic soil is made of algae, fungi, lichen, and moss and has a bumpy, sponge-like look. This special soil helps absorb water and prevent erosion, making it an important part of the desert ecosystem. A single misplaced step can crush hundreds of years of growth. Leave No Trace recommends sticking to trails that already exist, rather than creating your own.

Where in your daily life are you expected to stay on a trail, path, or sidewalk? Why?



Bureau of Land Management
1 Agua Fria National Monument
2 Sonoran Desert National Monument
3 San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area
4 Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area
5 Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument/ Dripping Springs Natural Area
6 Prehistoric Trackways National Monument
7 Socorro Nature Area
8 El Malpais National Conservation Area
9 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness

National Park Service
10 Grand Canyon National Park
11 Saguaro National Park
12 Petrified Forest National Park
13 White Sands National Park

U.S. Forest Service
14 Coconino National Forest
15 Carson National Forest
16 Santa Fe National Forest
17 Gila National Forest

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
18 Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
19 Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Pacific Northwest

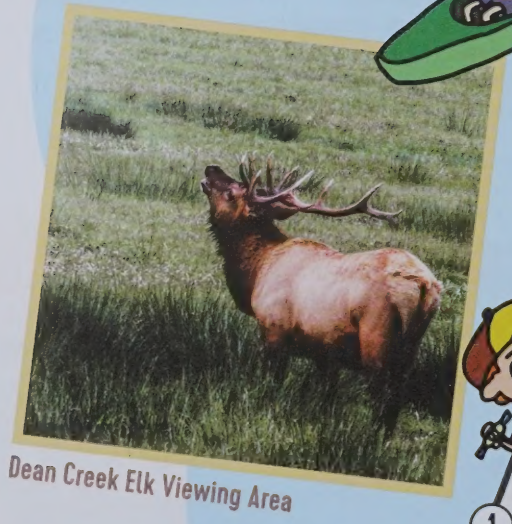
Rugged mountains, temperate rainforests, and a dramatic coastline dominate the Pacific Northwest landscape. Keep an eye out for migrating whales while exploring the rocky shores!

Oregon Coast Highway 101

The Oregon Coast offers a myriad of exciting activities, including hiking, biking, off-highway vehicle riding, wildlife watching, fishing, scenic driving, looking at tidepools, and wandering the expansive beaches. The entire coastline is public land!

Loon Lake Recreation Site

Loon Lake is a hidden gem of the Oregon coast. The campground is open throughout the summer, and the East Shore Day Use Area is open year-round for lake access. Swim, fish, or take a hike to a waterfall!



Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area

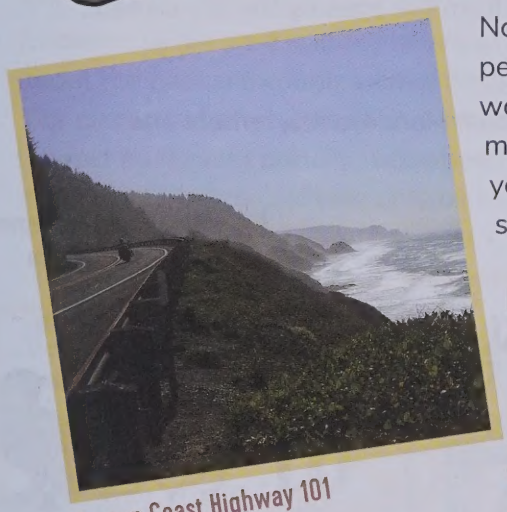
Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area

It's common to see elk at Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, where food is abundant for these large mammals year-round.

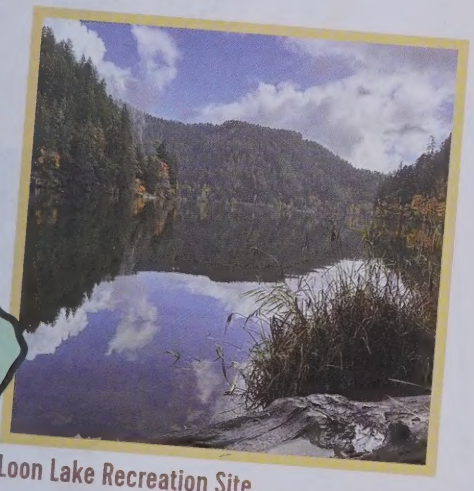
Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

Take in Oregon's tallest lighthouse while exploring the rocky coastline and tidepools at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

Leave No Trace Principle #3: Dispose of Waste Properly



Oregon Coast Highway 101



Loon Lake Recreation Site

Bureau of Land Management
1 New River Nature Center
2 Wildwood Recreation Site
3 Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
4 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

National Park Service
5 Crater Lake National Park
6 Mount Rainier National Park
7 North Cascades National Park

U.S. Forest Service
8 Deschutes National Forest
9 Olympic National Forest
10 Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11 Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
12 Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

No one likes a litter bug! Pack out all trash, including those orange peels! With more than 8 billion people on the planet, the world would look pretty messy if we all left our trash on the ground. You might be surprised how long it takes for trash to break down. Do your part by carrying your trash with you until you find a trashcan, so everyone can enjoy a litter-free environment.

Draw a line from the trash to the amount of time it takes to break down. Circle the item that surprised you the most.

Orange peel — 2,000 years

Soda can — 1 million years

Wool sock — Up to 2 years

Glass bottle — 500 years

Tire — 1–5 years

Paper — 80–100 years

Wet wipe — 2–5 months

Disposable diaper — 100+ years

What litter do you commonly see where you live?

_____

Challenge: Do some research! How long does it take to decompose?

_____

_____

Answer Key: Orange peel: Up to 2 years, Soda can: 80–100 years, Wool Sock: 1–5 years, Glass bottle: 1 million years, Tire: 2,000 years, Paper: 2–5 months, Wet wipe: 100+ years, Disposable diaper: 500 years

Grand Circle

The Grand Circle is a classic western road trip route through Nevada, Arizona, and Utah. Rivers cut deep canyons through the desert, revealing colorful rocks that tell the story of Earth's history. Evidence of strong cultural connections to the land can be found too, protected from the ages by the dry climate.

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

Attend the annual California condor release at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, a remote and stunning location that features plateaus, cliffs, buttes, and canyons.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

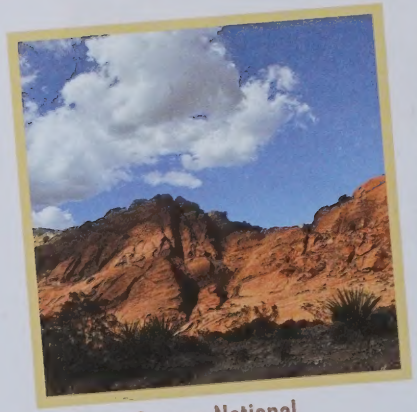
A wealth of recreation opportunities are located just down the road from Las Vegas. Hike, bike, climb, or scramble on rocks at this popular spot!

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area

Search for dinosaur tracks, learn about the Mojave desert tortoise, and explore more than 130 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding trails.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Visit one of five visitor centers to learn about the geology, ecology, and history of the region, as well as the abundant recreation opportunities.



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Bureau of Land Management
1 Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
2 Red Cliffs National Conservation Area
3 Vermilion Cliffs National Monument
4 Grand Staircase-Escalante NM

National Park Service
5 Grand Canyon National Park
6 Zion National Park

U.S. Forest Service
7 Dixie National Forest
8 Kaibab National Forest

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9 Desert National Wildlife Refuge
10 Havasu National Wildlife Refuge

Leave No Trace Principle #4: Leave What You Find

Evidence of the past is everywhere in the dry, high-elevation desert of the Southwest. One way to learn about the past is through archaeology, or the study of things that people made, used, and left behind. The placement of objects in and around ancient homes can give clues about how they were used. Show respect by leaving pottery, arrowheads, and other cultural objects where you find them. Leave No Trace encourages people to "take only pictures, leave only footprints."

Dear _____ (person),

I just got to visit a really cool archaeological site at _____ (place you'd like to visit.) It was really _____ (adjective). I saw lots of cultural objects like _____, _____, and _____ (nouns).

While I was there, I learned how important it is to Leave No Trace. That means I didn't take anything - not even a _____ (small object)! Instead, I took lots of pictures. I can't wait to share them with you!

Love,

_____ (your name).

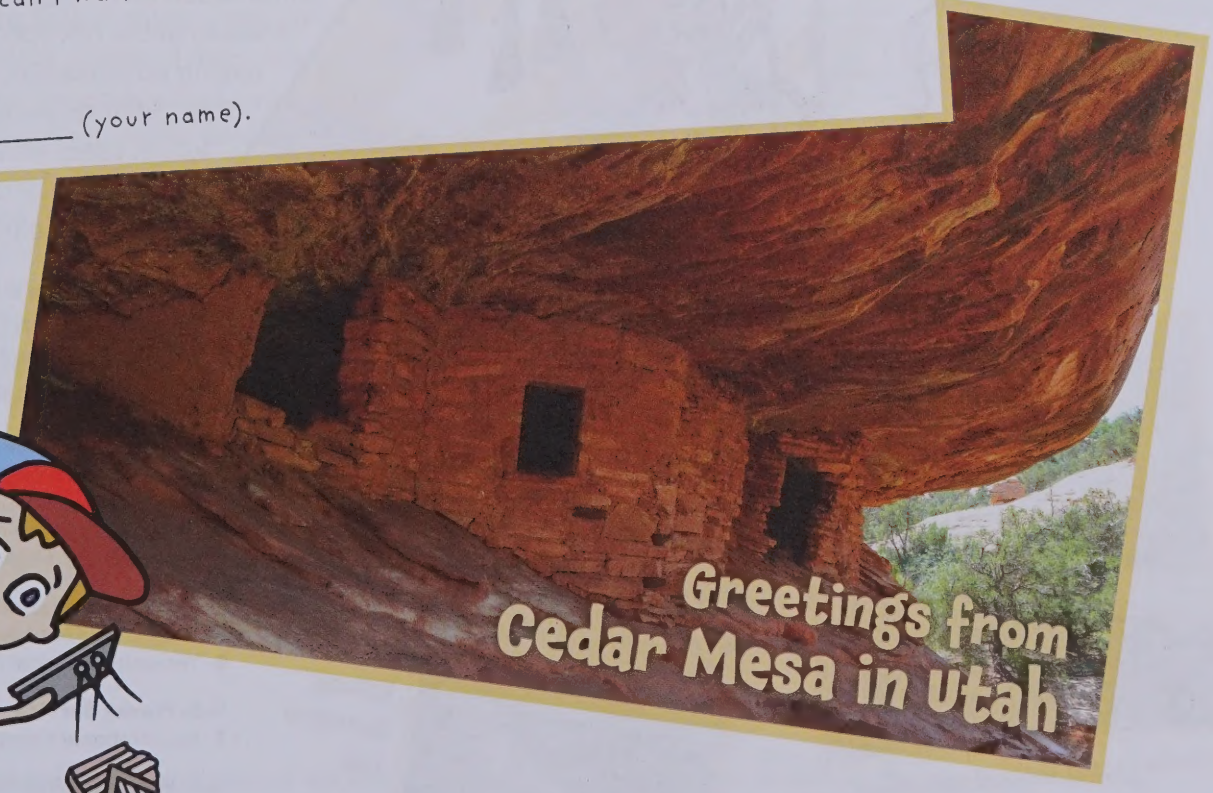
STAMP

_____

_____

_____

_____



California

Welcome to the Golden State! California is a region of extremes. From rainy northern coastline and dry southern desert to high mountain peaks and sandy shores, California has it all.

Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail

Hike, bike, or horseback ride along this scenic trail, crisscrossing through the rugged Susan River Canyon.

Fort Ord National Monument

Fort Ord National Monument honors the military and cultural heritage of the landscape while providing visitors with opportunities to hike, bike, or horseback ride on more than 86 miles of trails.

El Mirage Off-Highway Vehicle Area

Bring an off-highway vehicle to El Mirage, a dry lakebed raceway in the Mojave Desert. Vehicles have reached speeds greater than 300 mph there. Now that's fast!

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Stop by the visitor center to get the latest information on hiking, camping, or soaking in the hot springs. If you're feeling adventurous, check out the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which takes visitors by cable car up 6,000 feet to San Jacinto Peak.

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife

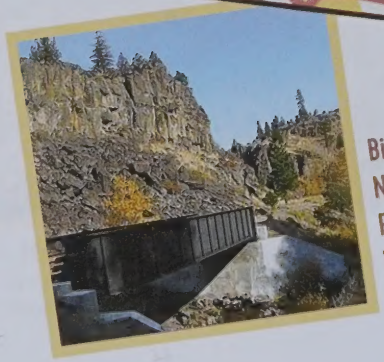
Bureau of Land Management
1 California Coastal National Monument
2 Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail
3 Cosumnes River Preserve
4 El Mirage Off-Highway Vehicle Area

National Park Service
5 Joshua Tree National Park
6 Yosemite National Park

U.S. Forest Service
7 Inyo National Forest

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
8 Coleman National Fish Hatchery

California Coastal National Monument



Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail

Leave No Trace Principle #5: Minimize Campfire Impacts

What comes to mind when you think of a campfire? _____

For many, campfires are a place of community and connection—a place to tell stories, make s'mores, and gather with family and friends. Before you start your fire, though, it's important to consider your surroundings and the laws in your area. Use the tips below to learn more about what makes a campfire legal and safe—the only way to enjoy this special activity.

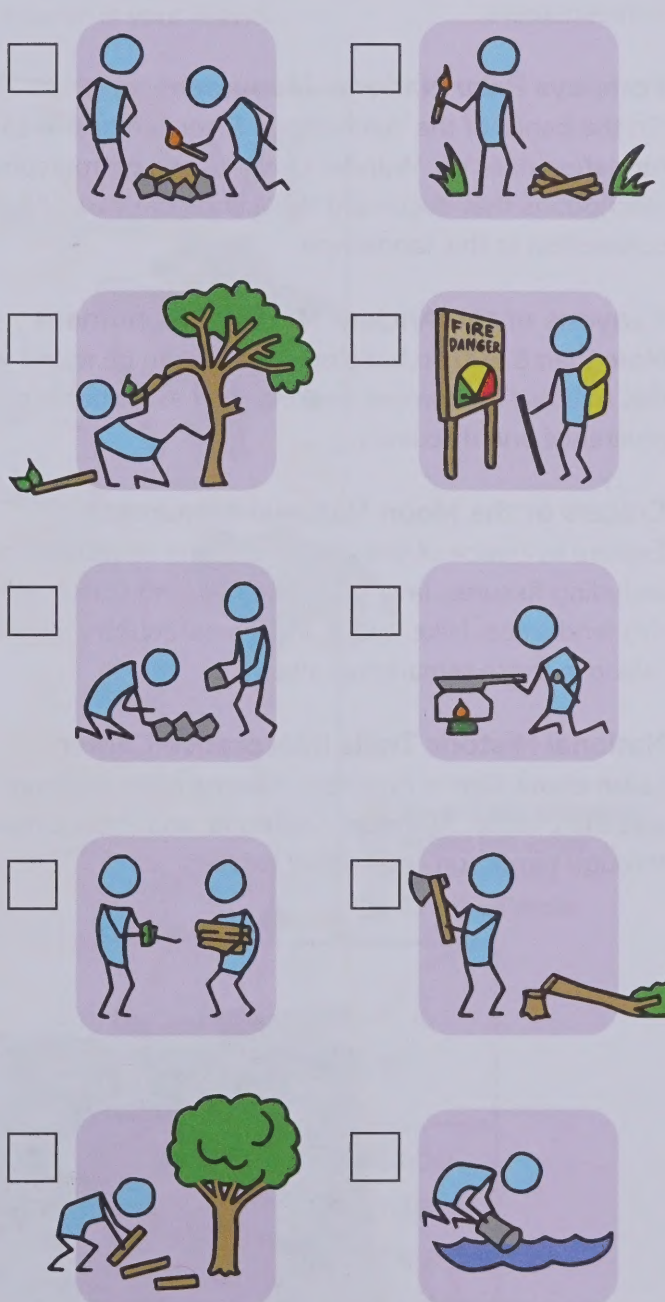
Activity: Check the boxes that show fire-safe behavior.

Do your research: Always check with local authorities if fires are allowed before starting a campfire. Since rain, wind, and temperature impact wildfire danger, regulations can change overnight.

Locate a safe spot: Generally, campfires should only be started in existing fire rings. Check local rules before building your own. Keep your fire away from anything flammable like tents, tree branches, and leaf piles.

Choose the right fuel: Firewood should be purchased locally or gathered responsibly, if allowed. Look for pieces of wood smaller than your wrist and avoid cutting or breaking branches from standing trees. Keep your fire small and under control and remember to never leave a fire unattended!

Drown your fire: Always fully put out your campfire! If possible, allow your campfire to burn out completely. Then use water to drown ashes and a shovel to stir until the mixture is cold. Remember, if it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.



Answer Key: Unchecked boxes, which are not fire-safe behaviors, include the person starting a fire on the ground rather than an existing fire ring, the person breaking branches from the tree, and the person chopping down a tree.

Rocky Mountains

Mountain lions, wolves, and bears, oh my! The Rockies are home to many species of big mammals, making it a great place for wildlife viewing. Mountains, rivers, and lakes dominate this region, along with grassy plains where bison roam. Hiking, fishing, and floating rivers are popular ways to take in the dramatic landscape.

Garnet Ghost Town

Walk through the well-preserved town of Garnet to learn about the boom-and-bust gold industry and the lives of early miners and homesteaders.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument

On the banks of the Yellowstone River, a massive sandstone formation rises up. Wander closer to see petroglyphs and inscriptions that document thousands of years of human connection to this landscape.

Canyons of the Ancient National Monument

More than 8,300 archaeological sites can be found within this national monument, making it an exceptional place for reverence and discovery.

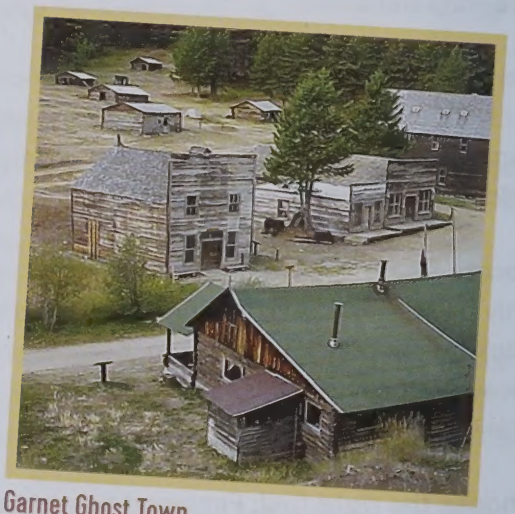
Craters of the Moon National Monument

Explore evidence of thousands of years of volcanic activity, including fissures, lava fields, craters, and cones, that make up this landscape. Hike, camp, and cross-country ski while taking in these remarkable sites!

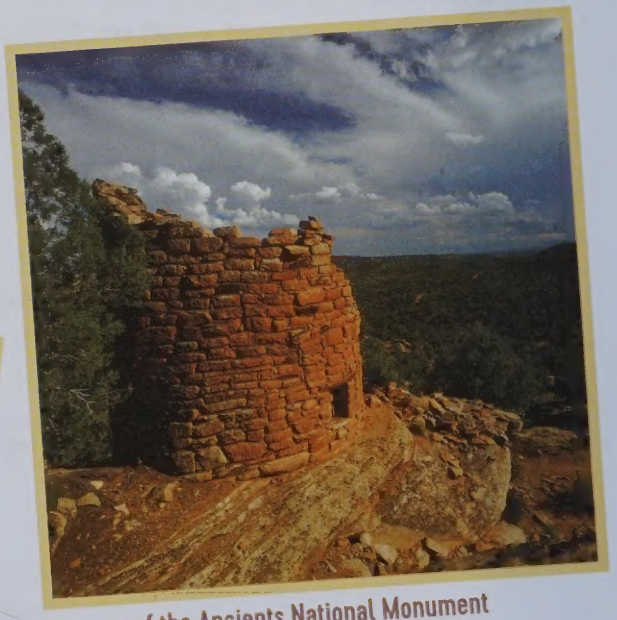
National Historic Trails Interpretive Center

Learn about Native American history, early explorers, and the Oregon, Mormon, California, and Pony Express trails through hands-on, interactive exhibits.

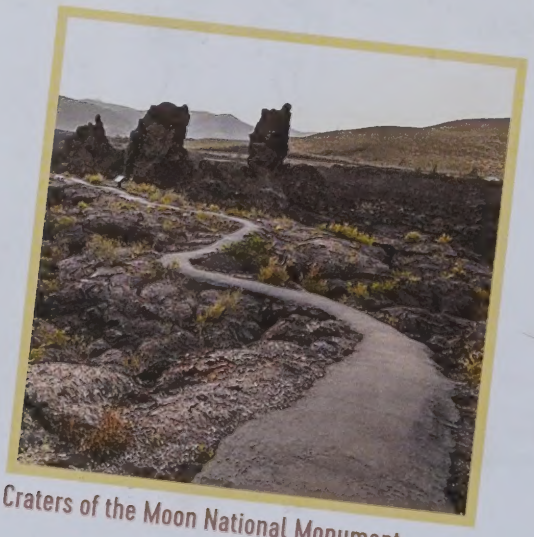
Pryor Mountain Wilderness Study Area



Garnet Ghost Town



Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

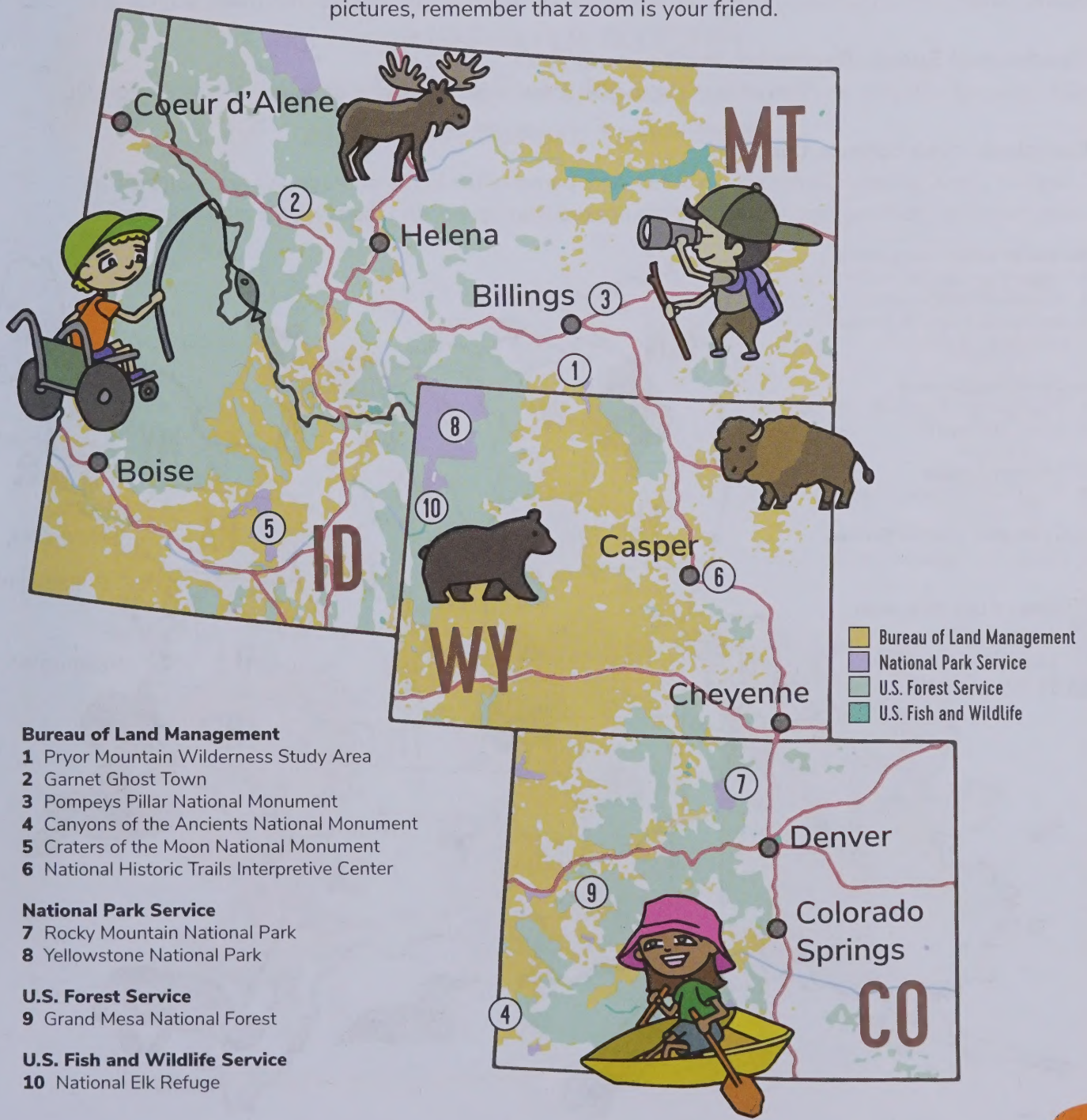


Craters of the Moon National Monument

Leave No Trace Principle #6: Respect Wildlife

How do you know when you're too close to wildlife? Cut along the dotted lines to create a hole in the page. Hold up the booklet. Any animal you see should be able to fit inside the square. In most cases, this means backing waaaaay up! Minimum wildlife viewing distances can vary depending on local regulations. Do your research and know before you go!

Don't have the book with you? Use your thumb. Close one eye, give a thumbs up, and fully extend your arm. Your thumb should fully cover up wildlife, allowing you to view from a safe distance. When taking pictures, remember that zoom is your friend.



Bureau of Land Management
1 Pryor Mountain Wilderness Study Area
2 Garnet Ghost Town
3 Pompeys Pillar National Monument
4 Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
5 Craters of the Moon National Monument
6 National Historic Trails Interpretive Center

National Park Service
7 Rocky Mountain National Park
8 Yellowstone National Park

U.S. Forest Service
9 Grand Mesa National Forest

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
10 National Elk Refuge

Outside the West

From snow-white beaches to tree-lined trails, BLM public lands in the East have a lot to offer. The BLM manages parcels of land in 31 states bordering on and east of the Mississippi River, making for endless road trip opportunities!

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse stands on the coastline just 2 hours south of Orlando, making it the perfect addition to any amusement park trip. Stroll the boardwalk through Florida coastal habitats, climb to the top of the lighthouse, and learn about the site's important role in World War II.

Wisconsin River Islands

Paddle, float, and fish while exploring the many islands found within Wisconsin's rivers and lakes.

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

Hike, bike, ride a horse, and fish on more than 800 acres of public lands just south of Washington, DC.

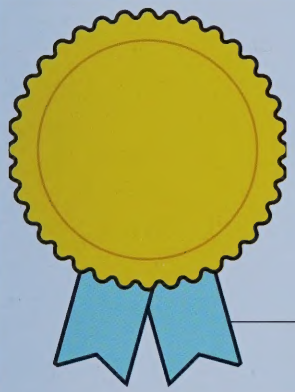
Campbell Creek Science Center

Campbell Creek Science Center sits on a 730-acre parcel of land in Anchorage, Alaska. Guided hikes, field trips, lectures, and workshops are offered year-round, and the trails are always open.

Leave No Trace Principle #7: Be Considerate of Others

Respecting others is an important piece of Leave No Trace. Think about how the word "respect" is used in your life. How can you show respect for others while you explore?

Fill out the pledge below and share how you will show respect while on public lands. The words in the word bank may be helpful.



Congratulations, Junior Ranger!

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Word Bank

respect
explore
teach
share
protect
volunteer
discover

This publication was written by and is a product of the BLM Division of Education, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources.

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Visit www.blm.gov/learn/kids/junior-ranger for more offerings from the Bureau of Land Management's Junior Ranger program.

Additional copies may be obtained by emailing kids@blm.gov or writing to:

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